

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.



Augusta, April 6, 1872.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
2.00 in advance, or \$5.00 if not paid within
Three Months of the expiration of the subscription.

All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which his paper will run, and in all cases a valid receipt for money sent to him.

Collectors' Notices.
MR. V. DARRING is now canvassing and collecting for the Maine Farmer in the towns of West and Kennebec.

MR. C. A. TAYLOR is now canvassing the towns in Kennebec.

MR. S. N. TARR is now canvassing the towns in Kennebec.

MR. J. D. BROWN is now canvassing the towns in Kennebec.

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CITY AFFAIRS. The monthly meeting of the city council was held on Saturday P. M. The report of the Auditor was read and accepted. The following officers were elected, in joint convention for the year: Samuel W. Lane, Auditor; A. W. Hall, Treasurer; George W. Shaw, Surveyor of roads; Daniel T. Turner and E. P. Shaw, Surveyors of wood, bark and stone; James F. Johnson, Surveyor of lumber.

Ordered, that one thousand copies of the reports of city officers be printed for the use of the city and for distribution.

Police of H. A. DeWitt and others were presented for widening the sidewalk and repairing the street on northern Avenue between the cotton factory and the upper factory boarding-house.

A communication was received from O. K. Whitehouse, for overseers of the poor, asking for an addition to the poor house, representing that such an addition is needed will cost about \$800.

It was ordered that the mayor inquire into the case of a man named David who supported the city of Portland, and the expense of the city. It was also ordered, that there be furnished to the Commissioners and Sub-Committee of Streets and Highways, suitable blank books for keeping an account of the expenditures in the several districts; and it shall be the duty of the Commissioners and Agents to enter in such books a correct and separate account of all labor performed, the number of days, and the time for each person employed, also an account of all materials purchased, from whom, and the amount.

In Board of Aldermen a communication from H. C. Morse, Chief Engineer, appointing Alex. McCaul as Driver of the Fire Department Team for the year beginning April 1, 1872, was received and the appointment approved.

The Chief Engineer in a communication also appointed James G. Shaw, Engineer of the Steamer Cushman, commencing April 1, 1872, which appointment was also approved.

A. P. Gould was appointed Surveyor of Weights and Measures.

While in Portland, recently, we spent several hours in the public library, an institution highly creditable to the citizens of the Forest City. It is contained in a pleasant suit of rooms in the city building, to which all citizens of Portland by the payment of a small fee, may have access to some fifteen thousand volumes of choice books, representing every department of human knowledge.

One of the most interesting features of this library is the Willis room, so called, containing the large and valuable collection of antiquarian books and documents, presented by the late Hon. Wm. Willis. All the ancient manuscripts and journals which furnished the materials for the *Willis History of Portland* are found in this room, with all the histories of New England towns which have ever been published, and a large number of rare and valuable books. Mr. Willis had copied largely the ancient records of Falmouth, and it is fortunate he did so, for in 1849 all the records of that ancient borough were destroyed by fire.

Mr. Willis, generally known as the *Willis*, is a delightful man in his efforts to build up this library, and is entitled to much credit for its present excellent condition. He is largely a labor of love, for he receives no adequate compensation for his valuable services.

The wave of reform seems to rise higher and higher in the valleys of the Kennebec, Kancamass, and the Kennebec. Since that time its progress has been backward, and the peaceable government of Montserrat, with all its superstitions and idolatries, was far preferable to any which has succeeded it. For three hundred years, from 1521 to 1821, the country was governed by fifty-six viceroys, who were from time to time appointed from Spain, and who did nothing but work the mines and oppress the natives. All useful learning was prohibited, the natives were heavily taxed, and were kept in subjection by the constant presence of Spanish troops, who committed every imaginable outrage upon the defenceless people.

When Mexico was invaded by the armies of Napoleon in 1808, the natives rose against their foreign masters, and the civil war was continued with varying success till 1821, when the Spanish troops were withdrawn, and the independence of the country acknowledged. But the people were ignorant after their three hundred years of slavery, and but poorly prepared to enjoy the fruits of their victory. They needed a Moses to instruct them how to use their newly won liberties, but he never came. A republic was formed in 1824, and with General Victoria for president, but the time of trouble and civil war had been the order of the day. Santa Anna was five times placed at the head of the government and as many times displaced. He was first elected in 1838, and fled from the country for the first time during the revolution of 1855. Benito Juarez, the present chief ruler of Mexico, was formerly chief justice of the supreme court, but when, in 1858, the president resigned, according to the provisions of the constitution, the duties of that office devolved on him, and for most of the time since, he has been elected at the head of the government or of a rebellion. He is a man of unquestioned ability, but like all his race, he is cunning, crafty and treacherous. He has been elected several times, though not infrequently by questionable means, and all things considered, he probably has done more for his country than any other man. At the last election he was opposed by a strong party, and was accused of procuring his election by fraud; hence the present rebellion, with his unscrupulous rival at its head.

During the brief reign of Maximilian, the sympathies of this government were decidedly with the rebels, and Juarez, as the chief figurehead of a republic form of government, was for a time, quite popular in this country. But ill has he requited us for the moral support which he not received, and even now, if reports are to be relied upon, his officers, with his approval, are making raids into Texas, running off cattle and horses, and robbing and murdering our citizens, creating a perfect reign of terror all along the border. Of course this government still loudly demands retribution for these outrages, and enforce it, but no reliable guarantee can be given that they will not commit again, so long as the government of Mexico is so weak to keep down anarchy within its own borders.

A protectorate by some liberal government strong enough to enforce its laws, would be the best thing that could happen to Mexico; but such a protectorate is not to be expected from such an elephant. Not ours, certainly, and the probability is, that she will be left to work out her own destiny, though if let alone, it is easy to see that her future will only be a repetition of her past.

Arrangements are soon to be made by which trains on the Kennebec division of the Maine Central Railroad, will connect with those on the Grand Trunk at Yarmouth Junction. Our friends in the northwestern part of the State will rejoice, that they will soon be able to visit the State capital without the vexatious delay of four hours at this distant station. The movement for this change comes from the managers of the Maine Central road.

The Augusta Literary and Library Association have received a valuable donation of books from Mrs. J. E. Judd, of Augusta. Nearly two thousand dollars have already been subscribed for the purchase of new books, and the Association promises to become one of the most important institutions of Augusta.

The Steamer *Star* of the East made her first trip to the Kennebec on Tuesday, and first trip to the Kennebec on Tuesday, and first trip to the Kennebec on Tuesday.

THE SCHOOL MILL BILL. In the *Journal* of March 29th, is an article from Hon. Warren Johnson, State Superintendent of Common Schools, giving his views upon the constitutionality of the school mill bill, passed by the last Legislature. This communication is in reply to another journal correspondent who claims that the provisions of this bill conflict with that provision of the constitution which provides, "that the Legislature are authorized and it shall be their duty to require the several towns to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of the public schools."

Mr. Johnson claims that "this act contributes additional aid in the support of public schools and does not release the towns from any school tax imposed upon them by the Legislature. The Constitution, Art. VIII, provides that the Legislature are authorized and it shall be their duty to require the several towns to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of public schools." The State thus establishes free schools. (See Journal on Constitution of Maine, p. 205) and insures a basis for definite form and amount of revenue. The form determined by legislation was that of taxation upon town property. The maximum amount was also determined by act of Legislature 1821 and was fixed at forty cents per capita. In 1855 this was increased to fifty cents; in 1854 to sixty cents; in 1855 to seventy-five cents; in 1868 to one dollar, and in 1872 reduced to eighty cents.

The right of the State to establish a system of free schools must therefore be regarded as the authority and duty of the Legislature to require the towns to raise a specified sum, more or less, in support and maintenance of schools, are like matters of internal police, and are not within the scope of the judicial power of the courts. The Legislature is the sole judge of what constitutes "suitable provision" on the part of the towns, the simple question then bearing upon the Constitution, is whether the State may contribute anything in aid of public schools, still requiring the towns to make suitable provision for support and maintenance of the same.

Mr. Johnson quotes largely from debates in the Constitutional convention, and from decisions of the Supreme court in support of the constitutionality of the bill, and closes his article with the following:

"Considering therefore that the school mill fund is an aid in support of schools; that the Constitution contains no express provision prohibiting such aid on the part of the Legislature; that the expression of the Legislature in law in cases clearly not repugnant to the Constitution and even in doubtful cases; that it is in harmony with the spirit of the Constitution and with subsequent legislative acts bearing upon this point and never having been declared unconstitutional; it is an equitable levy upon the property of the State, the easy and reasonable conclusion follows that the act to establish the school mill fund for the support of common schools is constitutional."

We regret to learn of the death of our friend Dr. F. L. Neal, which occurred at his residence, Livermore Falls, on Tuesday of last week. His disease was congestion of the lungs, and he was sick only three days. Dr. Neal was a graduate of City University of the city of 1852. After graduating, he taught the Hebrew Academy for several years, and left to accept the position of Professor of mathematics in the University of Maine. He was a man of excellent heart and character. His two children are left orphans, his excellent wife having died two years ago.

The past winter has been a very trying one for old people. Those who have examined our mortality lists from week to week cannot fail to have noticed that a very large proportion of deaths is of persons well advanced in years. As age creeps on, and the powers of life decline, the ability to withstand extremes of temperature, especially the cold extreme, grows less and less. There were ten deaths at the Livermore Hospital in the month of March, and only twenty in the month of April. They had been an inmate for twenty-three years. This list exceeds any monthly list of deaths at the hospital since that institution was founded. Extreme and continued cold weather is especially hard on epileptics, and this class forms a large per cent. of patients at the hospital.

BANGOR WAXING UP. A large gathering of the business men of Bangor was held in the city hall on Monday evening to consult to the subject of introducing manufacturing factories into the city. Addresses were made by Messrs. J. H. Hubbard, of Bangor, and a committee was appointed to take the subject under consideration, and to make a report at a future meeting to be held in the same place. A dispatch from Bangor says: "A great deal of interest was manifested by those in attendance, and any person proposing to start a manufacturing enterprise, with the details of which they are familiar, and to which they can bring experience and energy of management, will find no lack of capital to aid them in their enterprises."

March has been one of the most disagreeable months of the season. Extreme cold, with frequent storms, has prevailed during the greater part of the month. There is a vast amount of snow around the head waters of the Maine rivers, and an unusual depth of ice on all our bodies of fresh water. Should the snow go off suddenly, with the vast amount of ice which must be floating seaward, we may expect freshets and damage on our principal rivers. But our fields must be very much benefited by the persistence with which the snow has held on, and may aid in securing a good crop of grass, a thing of which Maine stands very much in need. It is pleasant to think that the snow has been so persistent, and that an abundant harvest is to reward us for our privations and discomforts.

We have received a communication from one of the parties who feel aggrieved at the decision of the share town in Somerset County, but which we must decline to publish. While our columns are always open to candid and temperate communications upon any subject of public interest, we cannot see the propriety of publishing such articles as the one before us, especially since the questions it discusses have been definitely settled. While the matter was under consideration by the legislature, we published the views of the several parties, and the change of share town, though we take no sides in the matter, knowing nothing of the case.

There has been a general change in the Surgeons of the several Militia Regiments in the United States. Dr. I. H. Starnes who for the past year has been stationed at Togus, has been ordered to Milwaukee and has already left with his family for his new post of duty. Dr. Wright of the Southern branch is to succeed Dr. Starnes while the Southern branch is to be supplied by the surgeon recently stationed at Milwaukee.

Gen. Henry Boynton, for five years Pension Agent in this city, on the 31st inst., passed over the books and papers to Col. F. M. Drew, his successor. Gen. Boynton has made a very efficient officer, and in the settlement of his accounts, they balance to a dollar, a high compliment, considering the amount of his disbursements. Gen. Boynton proposes to continue his residence in this city, and will engage in the sale of books.

Mr. W. H. Lambert, Principal of the High School in Lewiston, has formerly of this city, will give his popular lecture on "Dietetics" at Granite Hall, on Thursday evening of this week.

Editor's Table.
ATLANTIC MONTHLY. The April number of this New England favorite, published by H. Osgood & Co., Boston, comes to us freight, as usual, with an abundance of good things. It opens with a poem in several parts, entitled "Ballad of Carmichael," by Longfellow. "Jefferson in the House of the Burgesses," by Parton, is a readable article, and is also, "John Brown in Massachusetts," by Bret Harte contributes a characteristic poem, and John G. Whittier furnishes one of his best. The "Poet at the Breakfast Table" is witty, but profound, as usual.

The *GALAXY* opens with an article on Chas. Sumner, by Justin McCarthy. There is an article on "The French at Home." Our favorite, Edward Crapsey, gives us the "Nether side of New York," in which lottery gamblers are shown up. Several series are continued, while Gideon Welles gives the first of a series of articles on Lincoln and Johnson. Published by Sheldon & Company.

Old and New. This growing favorite presents its usual variety. Henry W. Bellows contributes a characteristic article on "The New Englanders and the Old Englanders," and "The Vicar's Daughter" and several other stories are continued, and Mrs. P. M. Clapp contributes a memorial to Helen Gibson one of the heroines of the war. Published by Roberts Bros., New York.

The *ELECTRIC* is embellished with a fine steel portrait of Hon. Charles Sumner. The leading articles are "The later English Poets," "Wanderings in Japan," "Brougham and Some of his Contemporaries," and "The high character attained by this deservedly popular magazine. Published by R. P. Lott, New York.

LITTORAL begins with the continuation of the illustrated article entitled "Scrambles Among the Alps." Hon. Horatio King, formerly of Maine, gives us "Reminiscences of the Early Stages of the War of the Rebellion." The review of foreign literature, a prominent feature of this magazine is copious and able in the number. J. P. Lippincott & Co., publishers.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK. The present number of this ladies' favorite, opens with a beautiful domestic picture entitled "Grandfather's Pet." Besides its seasonable Fashion Plates, it presents a good variety of reading matter. Louis A. Godey, Publisher, Philadelphia.

THE TRANSLATOR'S MAGAZINE. This popular periodical republishes the cream of foreign literature as a specialty. The present number, which only deals to linger, lastly knowing when and where to stop. Its literary criticisms are well worth the perusal. Published by Harnsey & Co., Philadelphia.

ARTHUR'S LADY'S HOME MAGAZINE. The present number opens with engravings, fashion plates and a musical gem, entitled "The Tyroler and his Child." Mrs. Mary E. Comstock contributes a story entitled "How Letty came Home," followed by other articles new and interesting.

NEW MUSIC. We have received from Ira C. Stockbridge, of Portland, the following pieces of music, published and for sale at the following prices: *Prize Essay*, by H. B. Catlin. *Daisy Farm Waltz*, by E. H. Catlin. *Under the Sugar Cane*, by Ben. Benedict's Great Plantation Song. Words by Frank D. Music by Jas. E. Stewart. *Flowers, fresh flowers.* Song. Words by L. L. Loomis. Music by J. P. Frank. *Starlight Melody Quadrille.* Composed by E. N. Catlin. *Grand Festival March.* Composed by Geo. A. Mietzke. *Birdie has gone with the angels.* Words by Annie M. Curtis. Music by E. N. Catlin. *Norah Macaroon.* Composed and sung by G. H. Harlowe.

When the Band begins to play. As sung by Miss Ada Wray. Written and composed by G. W. Hunt. **DEATH OF PROF. MORSE.** Prof. Samuel F. Morse, the inventor of the Electric Telegraph, died at his residence in New York on Tuesday of last week. He was born in Andover, Mass. in 1791, and was eighty years of age. Graduating at Yale College in 1810, he went to Europe as an artist, and on his second return from there in 1832, he first conceived the idea of the telegraph, which after years of study he practically demonstrated on the line between Washington and Baltimore. This was in 1844.

Congress having afforded a reluctant and tardy assistance, he succeeded in transmitting his first message over the wires in these words: "What hath God wrought?" Within fifteen hours 40,000 miles of wire was in successful operation, and now these wires intersect and bind together every civilized country on the globe. The inventor has been made the recipient of distinguished honors at home and abroad, and he was never before bestowed upon any living person. In June last his statue was unveiled in Central Park, New York, with imposing ceremonies such as have rarely been witnessed in this country. It is said he took cold from exposure on that occasion, which was the proximate cause of his death.

CALL FOR A LIBERAL CONVENTION. The New York Tribune publishes a call for a liberal convention, signed by Henry R. Selden, Horace Greeley, Frederick A. Conkling, and several other prominent republicans of New York. The call is addressed to Col. Wm. Grover, chairman of the Executive Committee of the liberal republicans of New York, and is signed by Messrs. Selden, Greeley, Conkling, and others. The call is for a convention to be held in New York, to discuss the question of a liberal convention, and to make a report to the people.

THE POLAND TRAGEDY. Mr. Albert Herrick, of Poland, recently gave birth to three fine girl babies, who weighed in the aggregate twenty-four pounds. At last accounts mother and children were doing well. At the recent town meeting in Poland, Hon. John R. Poliser offered for contributions to aid in purchasing a cow for the use of the mother and children, but which was generally refused. While more than sufficient to purchase the cow was raised, which was devoted to the welfare of the family. Mrs. Herrick is still on the sunny side of thirty, and is the mother of eight children.

Thomas C. Upham, for many years Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Bowdoin College, died at the residence of his brother in New York on Tuesday last. Prof. Upham was the author of several beautiful poems, indicating taste and genius in that department of literature, but he was better known as the author of an exhaustive treatise on the subject of the mind, and as a successful teacher. He died at a ripe age, and his memory will be cherished by thousands who have been under his instruction.

THE TARIFF BILL. The Senate has finally passed the tariff bill, with an amendment ordering the whole subject of internal taxes, by a vote thirty-five to four. By this action internal taxes of every kind, including the unpaid income tax for 1871, except those on whiskey, malt liquors and tobacco, are repealed from the 1st of July next, and all duties are placed on the free list, and the scale of duties reported by the Senate is agreed to. This result is a surprise to many of the Senators who sided in achieving it, but its practical effect will not probably be very great.

PUBLIC DEBT. The statement of the public debt as of the 1st of March, 1872, shows a total of \$2,340,931,438.86. Assets in cash and currency, \$330,631,929.52. Debt, less cash and currency, \$2,010,300,509.34. Decrease during March, 1869, \$299,647,022.03.

Town Elections.
ANDOVER TOWN. The following towns were chosen at municipal elections occurring March 25th: **ANDOVER TOWN.** Henry Jones, Town Clerk; Stephen A. Foster, Treasurer; John H. Jones, Surveyor of roads; Daniel T. Turner and E. P. Shaw, Surveyors of wood, bark and stone; James F. Johnson, Surveyor of lumber.

BRIDGE TOWN. The following towns were chosen at municipal elections occurring March 25th: **BRIDGE TOWN.** Henry Jones, Town Clerk; Stephen A. Foster, Treasurer; John H. Jones, Surveyor of roads; Daniel T. Turner and E. P. Shaw, Surveyors of wood, bark and stone; James F. Johnson, Surveyor of lumber.

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Items of Maine News.
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